

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (Original) A storage device for storing trays, comprising:
a first rotatable member; and
a second rotatable member positioned opposite the first rotatable member, the first and second rotatable members adapted to selectively support at least one tray therebetween.
2. (Original) The storage device of Claim 1, wherein the first and second rotatable members include first and second wheels, respectively.
3. (Original) The storage device of Claim 1, wherein each of the first and second rotatable members engages the same tray.
4. (Original) The storage device of Claim 1, wherein the at least one tray comprises a plurality of nested trays in a vertical column having an uppermost tray and a lowest tray.
5. (Original) The storage device of Claim 4, wherein the lowest tray of the plurality of nested trays is supported by the first and second rotatable members.
6. (Original) The storage device of Claim 1, wherein the first and second rotatable members include teeth extending from their respective outer surfaces, the teeth engaging a lip on the tray.

7. (Original) The storage device of Claim 6, wherein the at least one tray includes a stack of nested trays having an uppermost tray and a lowest tray, and wherein the lowest tray is supported by the teeth of the first and second rotatable members.

8. (Original) The storage device of Claim 6, wherein the teeth are configured with a tapered shape.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The storage device of Claim 1 ~~Claim 9~~, further comprising at least one transfer mechanism movable relative to the tray to selectively insert and remove the tray between the first and second rotatable members.

11. (Original) The storage device of Claim 10, further comprising at least one suction device coupled to the transfer mechanism, the at least one suction device being engageable with a bottom surface of the tray to cling to the tray.

12. (Original) The storage device of Claim 11, wherein the at least one suction device utilizes a source of vacuum to assist the at least one suction device in clinging onto the bottom surface of the tray.

13. (Original) The storage device of Claim 1, further comprising at least one motor driving the first and second rotatable members.

14. (Original) The storage device of Claim 13, further comprising a gearbox coupling the at least one motor and the rotatable members.

15. (Original) The storage device of Claim 14, wherein the gearbox drives the first and second rotatable members in opposite directions at substantially the same speed.

16. (Original) The storage device of Claim 1, wherein the first rotatable member is driven by a first motor, and the second rotatable member is driven by a second motor.

17. (Original) The storage device of Claim 16, further comprising a controller operable to drive the first motor and the second motor.

18. (Original) The storage device of Claim 1, wherein the first and second rotatable members are driven in opposite directions at substantially the same speed.

19. (Original) The storage device of Claim 1, further comprising a transfer mechanism configured for transferring a tray from a transfer position to a storage position.

20. (Original) The storage device of Claim 19, further comprising a conveyor configured to transport the tray to and from the transfer position.

21. (Original) The storage device of Claim 20, wherein the transfer mechanism includes at least one tine movable through the conveyor, the at least one tine engaging the tray located at the transfer position and moving the tray to the storage position.

22. (Original) The storage device of Claim 21, further comprising at least one suction device coupled to the tine, the at least one suction device being engageable with a bottom surface of the tray to cling to the tray.

23. (Original) The storage device of Claim 22, wherein the at least one suction device utilizes a source of vacuum to assist the at least one suction device in clinging onto the bottom surface of the tray.

24. (Original) The storage device of Claim 19, wherein the transfer mechanism elevates the tray from the transfer position to the storage position.

25. (Original) The storage device of Claim 19, wherein the first and second rotatable members receive therebetween successive trays from the transfer mechanism, and wherein the rotatable members store the successive trays in a nested configuration in the storage position.

26. (Original) The storage device of Claim 1, further comprising a shroud substantially covering the first rotatable member, the second rotatable member, and the at least one tray supported by the rotatable members.

27. (Original) A method for storing trays, comprising:
transporting a first tray to a transfer position;
transferring the first tray from the transfer position to a storage position; and
supporting the first tray in the storage position by two opposed rotatable
members.
28. (Original) The method of Claim 27, further comprising:
transporting a second tray to the transfer position;
transferring the second tray from the transfer position to the storage position; and
nesting the first and second trays.
29. (Original) The method of Claim 28, further comprising:
supporting the second tray in the storage position by the two rotatable members.
30. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein transferring the first tray includes:
elevating the first tray from the transfer position; and
driving the two opposing rotatable members in opposite directions to engage and
elevate the first tray to the storage position.
31. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein transferring the second tray includes:
elevating the second tray from the transfer position; and
driving the two opposed rotatable members in opposite directions to engage and
elevate the second tray to the storage position.